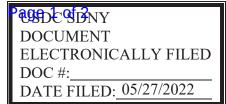
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
LAW DEPARTMENT

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May 27, 2022

## **By ECF**

Hon. Valerie E. Caproni United States District Court Southern District of New York Thurgood Marshall Courthouse 40 Foley Square, New York, NY 10007

HON. SYLVIA HINDS-RADIX

Corporation Counsel

Re: Kane, et al. v. de Blasio, et al., 21 Civ. 7863 (VEC)

Keil, et. al v. City of New York, et. al., 21 Civ. 8773 (VEC)

## Dear Judge Caproni:

I am an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the office of Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, attorney for Defendants in this action. I write today to respectfully request leave to file a supplemental declaration as part of the record on Plaintiffs' third motion for a preliminary injunction. ECF dkt. 111. Defendants request this leave in order to respond to a new factual contention and legal argument raised for the first time in Plaintiffs' reply: that Plaintiffs have a "problem code" in their record based on their non-compliance with the Vaccination Mandate and that this code prevents them from obtaining employment outside the DOE. For the Court's convenience, annexed hereto as Exhibit A, is a copy of the declaration of Mallory O. Sullivan ("Sullivan Decl."), Deputy Director of the New York City Department of Education's Office of Employee Relations, which Defendants seek leave to file on the pending motion.

Motions for leave to file a sur-reply "are subject to the sound discretion of the court." <u>SEC v. Ripple Labs</u>, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21936 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 3, 2022), citing <u>Barbour v. Colvin</u>, 993 F. Supp. 2d 284 (E.D.N.Y. 2014). When new evidence is submitted for the first time on reply, the district court should permit the nonmoving party to respond to that evidence prior to the disposition of the motion. <u>Litton Indus.</u>, Inc. v. Lehman Bros. Kuhn Loeb, Inc., 767 F. Supp. 1220 (S.D.N.Y. 1991) Here, for the first time on reply, Plaintiffs contend that "problem codes" preclude unvaccinated teachers from seeking employment in other school districts and that

this constitutes irreparable harm. <u>See Solon Decl.</u>, ECF dkt. 162, and Pl. Memorandum of Law in Reply, ECF dkt. 160 at 10. The Sullivan Decl. addresses specifically and solely that claim, and advises that DOE's coding system is for internal DOE use only, with all codes visible only to DOE Human Resources staff and that there are no problem codes for unvaccinated employees. As such, any such DOE codes do not preclude Plaintiffs from employment with non-DOE schools. Therefore, Plaintiffs' argument, advanced on reply, that "problems codes" result in irreparable harm is without merit.

I thank the Court for its attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lora Minicucci

**Assistant Corporation Counsel** 

Defendant's request to file the Sullivan Declaration (Dkt. 164-1) as a sur-reply is GRANTED. Defendant must file the Declaration by no later than **Tuesday**, **May 31**, **2022**. Any response to Defendant's sur-reply, not to exceed three double-spaced pages, is due no later than **Friday**, **June 3**, **2022**.

SO ORDERED.

HON. VALERIE CAPRONI

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE